Ben Berkman

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Penn State University, Schreyer Honors College: Studying Economics and French

**Experience:**

Journalism Experience:

Recipient of Bill Welch Award. Given to one high school journalism student each year for outstanding achievement. Inducted into Young Writers of America and awarded internship with *Centre Daily Times*. Completed numerous stories for *Centre Daily Times* (including front-page features, sports pieces, high-school related news) with mentoring of reporters Ed Mahon, Anne Danahy, and Christopher Passante.

Editor-in-chief, State College Area High School student newspaper, *Lion’s Digest*. Directed staff of over thirty in producing a monthly, sixteen page paper. Newspaper has readership of over 3,000. Features editor (junior year), sports staff writer (freshman-sophomore years).

Staff writer, Onward State. Lead beat writer for the men’s basketball team. Cover other sporting events as well as miscellaneous features, news pieces, and write-ups across the Penn State campus. Published 27 articles during first semester on staff, the most of any new staff member. Published 12,000 word feature on student that was redistributed through Penn State’s official Twitter account. Will likely be lead sports editor next year and managing editor as a junior or senior.

Research Experience:

Researcher on the formation of de facto states: Codes independent territories in the Middle East using dyadic analysis to determine if the given territory exhibits qualities of a de facto state with Professor Doug Lemke (Department of Political Science, Penn State University). Research is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and, by the end of the project, will hopefully draw inference on how de facto states are formed.

Work Experience:

P.J. Harrigan’s Bar & Grill at the Ramada Inn, State College, 2008-present (busboy, maintenance worker, banquet server). Progressed from bussing tables to training new employees, directing other employees, and assuming leadership roles. Learned discipline and work ethic by working from seven a.m. to twelve p.m. nearly every Saturday and Sunday the past four years.

Leadership Training:

Outward Bound (Summer 2011): Completed course in northwestern Maine that included a thirty-six hour “solo” involving living in isolation for a day and a half with littler food, shelter or light, and few amenities.

Overland (Summer 2012): Completed course in Wyoming. Learned basics of mountaineering, completed mountain climbing course with the Exum Mountain Guides in Grand Teton National Park.

Travel Experience:

Traveled to France five times, in 2009 lived alone with a French family for two weeks.

Visit to Israel and Jordan in 2008. In Jerusalem, bar-mitzvahed in front of the Western Wall. In Jordan, hiked to ancient ruins of Petra. In 2013, toured Israel on Birthright, gaining valuable insight regarding the current status of the Middle East.

Also have traveled to England (London), Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, and throughout the United States.

**Primary Activities:**

* Staff writer: Onward State
* Researcher: Coding the formation of de facto states with Professor Doug Lemke, Penn State University
* Member: Atlas THON
* Member: Penn State Squash Club
* Editor-in-chief: *Lions Digest*
* Intern: *Centre Daily Times*
* Varsity Golf: lettered, senior captain. One of five to continue into postseason play. Reached state semifinal, where team lost in a playoff. Marked the farthest in the playoff the team had advanced in current coach’s tenure. Won an individual tournament in 2013 as well.
* Student Government: on fifteen person Executive Council. Representative of Journalism and Publications department. Debate issues with other representatives to improve school

**Honors:**

* **Judge Richard M. Sharp Memorial Award for excellence in academic and civic achievement** (2012)- Awarded to one junior and one freshman each year in memory of Judge Sharp, a Centre County, Pennsylvania judge, presented by Pennsylvania House of Representatives member H. Scott Conklin to a recipient (according to the citation) “respectful of religious liberty…compassionate and merciful…ability to understand and forgive others” while possessing “loving humility”.
* **Bill Welch Award for Journalism Excellence** (2011)- Award in memory of former *Centre Daily Times* editor and State College, Pennsylvania, mayor Bill Welch. Paired with induction into Young Writers of America.
* **Power of the Paws Award** (2011)- Awarded to six students from class of 500 who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership and public engagement.
* **Top 10% Award, Class of 2013**-Graduated in top four percent of class
* **AP Scholar with Honor**